

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the present application in view of the following remarks, as well as those remarks and amendments made in Applicants' reply of September 9, 2004.

In the Advisory Action of September 20, 2004, the Examiner states that undue burden is not a requirement and that Applicant has not demonstrated that the prior Examiner actually searched for the suspension feature. Applicants respectfully traverse.

With regard to undue burden, Applicants respectfully refer the Examiner to MPEP § 803.

With regard to searching the suspension feature, Applicants respectfully submit that the whole basis of Applicants' traversal is that the withdrawal of claims 22-25 was in error in the first place. Also, Applicants submit that the features of claim 1 have already been searched.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration, to rejoin claims 22-25, and to have these claims considered by the Examiner.

Applicants have taken substantial steps in efforts to advance prosecution of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance issue for the present case.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Eugene T. Perez (Reg. No. 48,501) at the telephone number of the

Application No. 09/890,804

Art Unit 1731

Preliminary Remarks Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

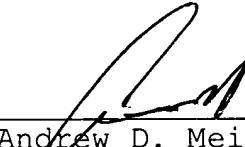
undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By _____


Andrew D. Meikle, #32,868

ADM/ETP
0475-0193P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 09/30/03)